

Remarks

Claims 1-19 are pending in the current application.

The indication that claims 10 and 11 are directed towards allowable subject matter is greatly appreciated.

Claims 1-4, 15 and 16 stand rejected as being anticipated by Dean et al. (US 6,414,489)

Claims 3, 5-9, 12-14 and 17-19 stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 (c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim.

Claims 1, 4-9, 12-14 and 17-19 have been amended.

Claims 10, 11, 15 and 16 remain in the application unamended.

Claim 3 has been canceled.

Claim Objections

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of record were amended in a Preliminary Amendment which was filed in conjunction with the filing of the present application on 18 November 2005. Those amendments were made to place the claims in a format suitable for prosecution before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The claims were not amended in order to address issues of patentability. Among other amendments, the claims were amended to remove multiple dependencies.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all claim objections made by the Office Action. Further, Applicants request examination of those claims not previously examined.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3. As amended, claim 1 is directed to A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) device, comprising a diagnostic space, a main magnetic system for generating a main magnetic field in said diagnostic space, a gradient magnetic coil system comprising a gradient coil for generating at least one gradient of the main magnetic field, and noise reducing means for reducing noise that is generated as a result of vibrations of the gradient coil, wherein the noise reducing means comprise a sound-absorbing panel disposed between the gradient coil and

the diagnostic space wherein the sound-absorbing panel comprises channels having an open end and a closed end.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action has not established any teaching or suggestion in the prior art of record of noise reducing means comprise a sound-absorbing panel disposed between the gradient coil and the diagnostic space wherein the sound-absorbing panel comprises channels having an open end and a closed end as set forth in claim 1.

Claim 3 has been canceled in connection with the amendment to claim 1.

Claims 4-9, 12-14 and 17-18 have been amended to properly depend from claim 1.

Claim 19, which was previously unexamined, has been amended to place it in independent form. Examination of claim 19 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 1-2 and 4-19 distinguish patentably and non-obviously over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. An early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

If any extension of time is required relative to this Amendment, Applicants hereby petitions for such extension. Authorization to charge deposit account 14-1270 for the fees associated therewith or otherwise necessary in connection with the related application is hereby provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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